

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:SFPATRICK:BA
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS STATE 309180

FROM AF/W FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:N/S

TAGS: SCUL, NI

SUBJECT: DR. MBADIWE AND CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

REF: LAGOS 14870

1. DESK OFFICER PATRICK SPOKE DECEMBER 28 TO MR. CARROLL, VICE PRESIDENT CCNY FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, WHO RESPONDED AS FOLLOWS REGARDING POINTS RAISED REFTEL.
2. DR. MBADIWE HAD GIVEN EQUIVALENT OF DOLS 20,000 FOR OPERATIONAL EXPENSES AT AFRICA HOUSE. HOWEVER, AFRICA HOUSE AND THE COLLEGE HAVE DECIDED IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO SPEND THAT AMOUNT AT THIS TIME ON OPERATIONS, SINCE EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS OF APARTMENT ARE REQUIRED. ESTIMATED COST OF NEEDED REFURBISHING IS DOLS 200,000, AND AFRICA HOUSE HAS MOUNTED A FUND-RAISING DRIVE, WHICH IS JUST BEGINNING. OPERATIONAL FUNDS, THEREFORE, SHOULD BE RETURNED. DR. MBADIWE HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THE CHANGE

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IN STRATEGY, AND IS ENCOURAGED TO MAKE DONATION TO CURRENT FUND-RAISING DRIVE IF HE WISHES.

3. ART COLLECTION: CCNY DOES NOT KNOW WHAT IS IN THE COLLECTION, ITS AUTHENTICITY, THE ESTIMATED VALUE, OR ITS EXACT LOCATION. COLLEGE ASSUMES THE COLLECTION IS

SOMEWHERE IN NIGERIA. DESKOFF SUGGESTED THAT EMBASSY UNLIKELY TO HAVE EXPERTISE TO EVALUATE THE PIECES, BUT THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES (DA) WITHIN THE FMG PROBABLY ABLE TO OBLIGE. SUGGESTED CCNY MAY WISH TO COMMUNICATE WITH DR. MBADIWE DIRECTLY AND POSSIBLY DA REGARDING LOCATION OF THE WORKS AND THE VALUATION. CARROLL SAID COLLEGE WOULD TRY TO CONTACT MBADIWE DIRECTLY ON THESE TWO POINTS.

4. DESKOFF CONFIRMED THAT EMBASSY ATTEMPTING TO RETURN NAIRA CHECK AS INSTRUCTED.

5. WE ALSO AGREED THAT DR. MARSHAK-AMBASSADOR WERE APPROPRIATE CHANNEL FOR FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS THIS SUBJECT.

CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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